

03-2004

US0307592

62413A

**ART 34 AMDT**

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A durable elastic article capable of surviving treatment wherein the treatment is selected from the group consisting of:
  - 5 a) exposure to a 10% by weight sodium hypochlorite solution for a period of at least 90 minutes at a temperature of at least 140°F;
  - b) exposure to a 5% by weight permanganate solution for a period of at least 90 minutes at a temperature of at least 140°F;
  - c) 50 cycles of industrial laundering at temperatures at least about 65°C;
  - 10 d) 20 cycles of drycleaning with perchloroethylene; or
  - e) mercerization;wherein surviving means that after treatment the fabric exhibits growth of less than 20% as determined according to ASTM D3107.
2. The article of Claim 1 wherein the growth is less than 10%.
- 15 3. The article of Claim 1 wherein the growth is less than 8%.
4. The article of Claim 3 which is further capable of surviving two or more of the treatments.
5. The article of Claim 3 wherein the article is stone washed.
6. The article of Claim 1 wherein the article comprises fiber comprising crosslinked
- 20 homogeneously branched ethylene polymer.
7. The article of Claim 1 wherein the article is a fabric.
8. The fabric of claim 7 in which the fabric is woven or knitted.
9. A garment made from the fabric of Claim 7.
10. The garment of Claim 9 wherein the garment is swimwear.
- 25 11. A treated garment made from elastic fabric wherein the treatment is selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) exposure to a 10% by weight sodium hypochlorite solution for a period of at least 90 minutes at a temperature of at least 140°F;
  - b) exposure to a 5% by weight permanganate solution for a period of at least 90 minutes at a
  - 30 temperature of at least 140°F;
  - c) 50 cycles of industrial laundering at temperatures at least about 65°C;
  - d) 20 cycles of drycleaning with perchloroethylene; and

03-2004

US0307592

62413A

ART 34 AND

c) mercerization;

wherein the garment exhibits growth of no more than about 20% as determined according to ASTM D3107.

12. The garment of Claim 11 wherein the treatment was done to the fiber prior to making the fabric.

13. The garment of Claim 11 wherein the treatment was done to the fabric prior to assembling the garment.

14. The garment of Claim 11 wherein the treatment was done to the fabricated garment.

15. The garment of Claim 11 wherein the treatment included two or more elements of the group.

16. The garment of Claim 11 wherein the garment is swimwear.

17. The garment of Claim 11 wherein the fabric is denim.

18. The garment of Claim 11 wherein the garment is a uniform.

19. The garment of claim 18 wherein the uniform is a rental uniform.

20. The garment of claim 11 wherein the garment is made from fabric comprising fibers made from homogeneously branched ethylene polymer.